

Today's News - Monday, May 6, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of TEN Arquitectos' Museo Amparo in Puebla, Mexico, a Gehry show in NYC, and more.
- A big-thoughts-for-big-cities kind of day: Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogotá, tackles ideas for American cities and suburbs that could be a "template for a third-millennium city."
- Flint gets a different take from former Barcelona mayor Joan Clos: "We're still building cities like it was the first quarter of the 20th century."
- Peirce parses what our cities might look like by mid-century: "One vision is that the distinction between city and rural will fade as suburbs become more urban, densely occupied and town-like."
- Some solutions might be found in Vancouver projects for micro houses and micro-lofts.
- Adler reports on the year-one report card for Obama's Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative: "whereas Sustainable Communities mostly focuses on linking housing and transportation, SC2 addresses a wider range of urban issues, experimenting with an innovative, surgical approach."
- Newsom (among others in today's news) reports from the "The Resilient City" conference in Boston, and "one powerful, if gloomy, presentation" by Mallach: "Downtowns are the low-hanging fruit of urban regeneration."
- Lumumba minces no words about "why Africa should be wary of its 'New Cities': they might only make social and economic problems worse."
- Litt finds lots of lessons to bring home to Cleveland from BIG's big projects in Denmark.
- Any one of the three shortlisted designs for the Crown Sydney Hotel Resort in Barangaroo could be "a significant building for Sydney."
- Architects "take a swipe" and the three proposals (not one of them by local talent): "It's all a bit Macau, isn't it?"
- Wainwright reports on the "heritage pub brawl" about Chipperfield's expansion plans for the Geffrye Museum: "is it a victory for local heritage or a missed opportunity?"
- An interesting exit interview with the outgoing president of the Malaysian Institute of Architects, who is "not one to mince his words" about the key issues his profession must deal with ("influx of foreign consultants" included).
- Duggan, Shioiri-Clark and Cary, and Schaphie all weigh in on the "gender disparity in architecture" conundrum being drummed up by the Scott Brown/Pritzker kerfuffle.
- A good reason to head to L.A. by Saturday: the A+D Museum "Celebrate the Journey" fundraiser (online auction now live - some cool stuff!).
- The Urban Age Institute's Meeting of the Minds Toronto doesn't convene until September, but early-bird registration (save \$\$\$) ends soon.

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-- TEN Arquitectos: Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico
-- Exhibition: "Frank Gehry: At Work" - Leslie Feely Fine Art, New York City
-- and more

A U.S. Template for a Third-Millennium City: If we consider the influence American cities will exert on the rest of the world, the way they are built will determine, as well, much of the world's sustainability and well-being. By Enrique Peñalosa- Urban Land Magazine (Urban Land Institute/ULI))

The Potential Perils of Rapid-Fire Urbanization: Former Barcelona mayor Joan Clos warns that a lack of urban planning could turn our expanding cities into powder kegs... "We're still building cities like it was the first quarter of the 20th century." By Anthony Flint- The Atlantic Cities

American Futures: Greener, Safer, More Compact? What will our cities look like by mid-century...One vision is that the distinction between city and rural will fade as suburbs become more urban, densely occupied and town-like. By Neal Peirce -- Mark Hinshaw; June Williamson; Enrique Peñalosa- Citiwire

Architects optimize every nook and cranny when designing micro houses: Small Modern Living designed the 37-square-metre (400-square-foot) Studio37 as a prototype of a house that could be lowered into place by crane...18 West Hastings...the first of its kind in Vancouver...incorporated 21-square-metre (226-square-foot) microlofts. -- Dan Boot; Bruce Carscadden Architect- Calgary Herald (Canada)

A Year-One Report Card for President Obama's Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative: An early evaluation of his signature urban policy programs pronounces it a successful model...whereas Sustainable Communities mostly focuses on linking housing and transportation, SC2 addresses a wider range of urban issues...experimenting with an innovative, surgical approach... By Ben Adler- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Resilience: Many Cities, Many Meanings: ...I was in Boston for a conference on "The Resilient City"...One powerful, if gloomy, presentation came from the Brookings Institution's Alan Mallach. He talked about "legacy cities" -- a term coined to avoid the more negative "shrinking cities"... "Downtowns are the low-hanging fruit of urban regeneration." By Mary Newsom/UNC Charlotte Urban Institute/PlanCharlotte.org- Citiwire

Why Africa Should Be Wary of Its 'New Cities': Planned, self-contained cities are popping up all over Africa, and no one knows what their impact might be...Nairobi-based urban practitioner Jane Lumumba argues they might only make social and economic problems worse.- Next City (formerly Next American City)

BIG projects in Copenhagen, another northern waterfront city, offer lessons for Cleveland: ...Amager Bakke waste-to-energy plan...sought "an energy plant that would be architecture and also would also be a gift to the city...those are three things we hadn't heard in the same sentence before." By Steven Litt -- Kai-Uwe Bergmann/Bjarke Ingels Group; Realities United; Sasaki Associates [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Architectural designs revealed for Crown Sydney Hotel Resort in Barangaroo: "Any one of the three buildings is heading in the direction of being a significant building for Sydney." -- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Wilkinson Eyre Architects [images, link to details]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Top Architects Take A Swipe At The Designs For James Packer's Sydney Casino Concept: One common theme is that the designs are lacking some Australian-ness; probably understandable given that the submissions are all from overseas design firms..."It's all a bit Macau, isn't it?"..."look uncomfortable in a Sydney context." -- Philip Cox/Cox Architecture; John Agius/Australian Institute of Architects - Business Insider Australia

David Chipperfield's heritage pub brawl ends in a victory for no one: As the planned expansion of the Geffrye Museum is halted, is it a victory for local heritage or a missed opportunity? Hackney is no stranger to class warfare, and architects and their buildings are never far from the front line. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Architect of change: Outgoing PAM president Ar. Hj Saifuddin Ahmad reflects on his two terms of office, steering the institute in the right direction: Not one to mince his words...some major issues that he was concerned about that included the mandatory minimum scale of fees, the recognition of graduates from unrecognised schools of architecture and the influx of foreign consultants. -- Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia/Malaysian Institute of Architects; SNO Architects - New Straits Times (Malaysia)

Is the Architecture World Sexist? ...the idea of "women architects" as different from the idea of architects with a male default setting continues to cripple women looking to break through (ironically) this particular glass ceiling...Here's hoping that prejudices and misconceptions about gender as old as Genesis can be buried beneath buildings for us to live, work, and dream in the future. By Bob Duggan -- Denise Scott Brown; Robert Venturi; Zaha Hadid; Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa; Jacques Herzog/Pierre de Meuron; Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu- Big Think

Op-Ed: We need women designing buildings: ...it's not just the licensing process and the culture of workaholism that push women out. It's also sexism in the workplace and the profession at large...the gender disparity in architecture...is not just a problem for women; it's a problem for all of us. By Marika Shioiri-Clark/SOSHL Studio and John Cary/PublicInterestDesign.org -- Denise Scott Brown; Robert Venturi; Wang Shu; Lu Wenyu; Zaha Hadid- CNN

Op-Ed: A blueprint for women architects to overcome doubt, discrimination: ...campaign to have Denise Scott Brown recognized by the Pritzker Architecture Prize committee has shed light on the ongoing struggles of women in architecture. Women must push themselves to 'lean in' more to fight internal and external obstacles. By Mia Scharphie- Christian Science Monitor

Carrying on at the A+D Museum in LA: For a museum that's moved four times in 12 years, life really is about the journey and not the destination. So the Architecture + Design Museum in Los Angeles is urging those who attend its annual gala to "Celebrate the Journey." Forty architects have responded...as part of the gala's silent auction on May 11. By J. Michael Welton- Architects + Artisans

Meeting of the Minds Toronto, organized by Urban Age Institute, will convene 350 invited urban sustainability and technology leaders with a single purpose: to identify tested and untested solutions that can help us build connected and sustainable cities and regions, September 9-11; earlybird registration (save \$\$\$): May 31.- Meeting of the Minds

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